

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 2, 2007. Claims 42 to 45, 47, 59, 76, 78, 79, 81 and 82 are pending in the application. Claims 42, 59 and 78 all which have been amended, are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 59 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 59 to clarify that it is directed to a computer-readable storage medium. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 42 to 44, 47, 59 and 76 to 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,120 (Shibusawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,103 (Zuber). Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shibusawa in view of Zuber, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 (Lobiondo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing values of the capabilities of a first print apparatus and a second print apparatus. In order to synthesize the capability description, a print processing apparatus receives, from respective first and second print apparatuses, capability description information which describes a first description describing values of capabilities and a second description describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities.

Therefore, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention that generates the synthesized capability description information can recognize not only the value of the capability of the print apparatus but also the method of synthesizing the value of the relevant capability. Further, the print apparatus can notify the apparatus (target of the synthesis) of the method suitable for synthesis of the value of the capability of the own apparatus, and actually synthesize it. Furthermore, the apparatus which generates the synthesized capability description information can receive not only the value of the capability of the print apparatus but also the method of synthesizing the value of the relevant capability. Thus, even if a new capability is added to the print apparatus and the value of this capability is sent, it is possible to know how to perform the synthesis because that information is included in the method.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 42 is directed to a print processing method which is executed by a print system to which plural print apparatuses and an information processing apparatus are connected. The print processing method comprises a selecting step of selecting at least two or more print apparatuses from among the plural print apparatuses; a receiving step of receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, from respective first and second print apparatuses selected in said selecting step, wherein the capability description information describes a first description describing values of capabilities and a second description describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities; a first recognition step of recognizing values of capabilities of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus, from the first description; a second recognition step of recognizing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities of the first print

apparatus and the second print apparatus, from the second description; a first generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in said second recognition step, generating synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing a value obtained by executing arithmetic calculation to the values of the capabilities recognized in said first recognition step; and a second generating step of, based on the synthesizing method recognized in said second recognition step, generating the synthesized capability description information obtained by synthesizing the capability description information of the first print apparatus and the capability description information of the second print apparatus, by describing the capability included in at least one of the first print apparatus and the second print apparatus.

Applicant submit that Shibusawa, Lobiondo and Zuber, either taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, from respective first and second print apparatuses, wherein the capability description information describes a first description describing values of capabilities and a second description describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities. This is because neither Shibusawa, Lobiondo nor Zuber disclose receiving a method of synthesizing the value of capability from a print apparatus.

In Shibusawa, a capability of printer is obtained. (See Shibusawa, step S2 of Fig. 9). However, the target obtained is the information described in Fig. 7, that is, it is the information merely indicating the capability of a printer. Therefore, Shibusawa does

not disclose or suggest obtaining a method of synthesizing the value of the capability.

Accordingly, in Shibusawa, when synthesizing the obtained capability, synthesis can only be performed by a method already predetermined for the relevant apparatus. Namely, even if the synthesizing method to be used adopts any of the "or", "and" and "arithmetic addition" methods (such as disclosed by Zuber), the method has already been previously determined in the apparatus that is the target of synthesis of capabilities.

For this reason, in Shibusawa, it is impossible for a printer to have the capability of being the notification source determining by what method a particular capability should be synthesized. Further, in Shibusawa, as it is impossible to know by what method the added capability should be synthesized when a new capability is added to the printer, it is impossible to achieve optimum synthesizing of capabilities.

Applicant has reviewed Lobiondo and Zuber and submits that neither reference supplies that which is missing from Shibusawa, namely receiving capability description information of a first print apparatus and capability description information of a second print apparatus, from respective first and second print apparatuses, wherein the capability description information describes a first description describing values of capabilities and a second description describing a method of synthesizing the values of the capabilities.

As a result, it is believed that the present invention as recited in amended independent Claim 42 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Shibusawa, Zuber, Lobiondo nor by any possible combination thereof.

In light of the deficiencies of Shibusawa, Zuber, Lobiondo as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 42 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 59 and 78 are directed to a computer-readable storage medium and apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 42. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 59 and 78 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FOHS_WS 1715069v1